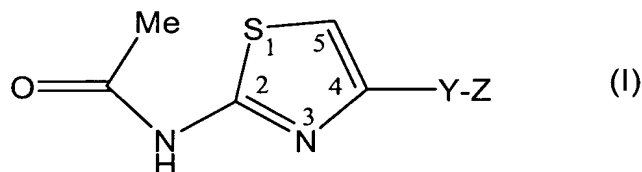


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

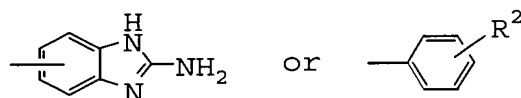
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound of the formula (I):



wherein the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position;

Y is a bond, lower alkylene, lower alkenylene or -CONH-; and

Z is a group of the formula:



wherein R^2 is a group of the formula: -A-B-D-E,

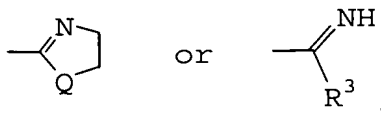
wherein

A is a bond, lower alkylene, -NH- or -SO₂-;

B is a bond, lower alkylene, -CO- or -O-;

D is a bond, lower alkylene, -NH- or -CH₂NH-; provided that B and D are not both simultaneously bonds, and

E is optionally protected amino, which may be optionally protected, -N=CH₂,

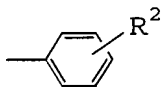


wherein

Q is -S- or -NH-; and

R^3 is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkylthio, or -NH- R^4 , wherein R^4 is hydrogen, -NH₂ or lower alkyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein Z is a group of the formula:



wherein R^2 is a group of the formula:

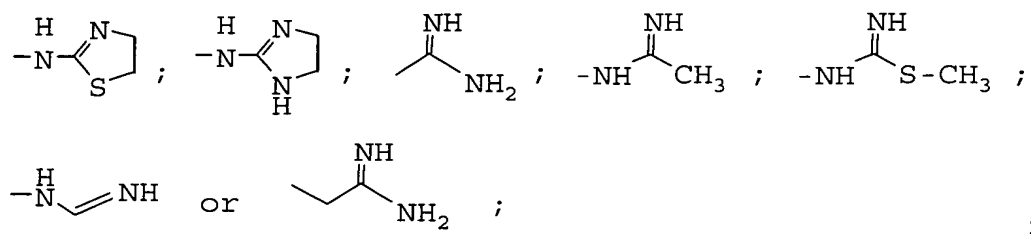
$-G-NH-\overset{NH}{\underset{\text{C}}{\parallel}}-NH-R^4$ (wherein G is a bond, -NHCOCH₂- or lower alkylene and R^4 is hydrogen, -NH₂ or lower alkyl);

-NH₂;

-CH₂NH₂;

-CH₂ONH₂;

-CH₂ON=CH₂;



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

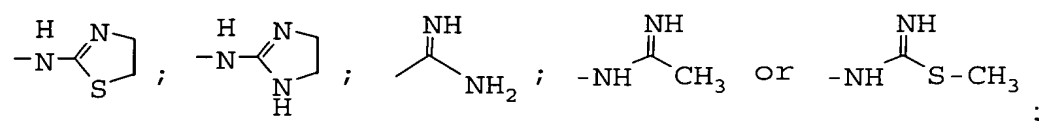
Claim 3 (Original): The compound of claim 2, wherein R² is a group of the formula:

$\text{---G---NH} \begin{array}{c} \text{NH} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} \text{NH---R}^4$ (wherein G is a bond, $\text{---NHCOCH}_2\text{---}$ or lower alkylene and R⁴ is hydrogen or lower alkyl);

$\text{---CH}_2\text{NH}_2$;

$\text{---CH}_2\text{ONH}_2$;

$\text{---CH}_2\text{ON=CH}_2$;



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is:

N-{4-[2-(4-{{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-5-[4(methylsulfonyl)benzyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{{[hydrazino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-5-[4(methylsulfonyl)benzyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{{[hydrazino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide, or

N-(4-{2-[4-(2-{{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}ethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)acetamide[[,]];

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

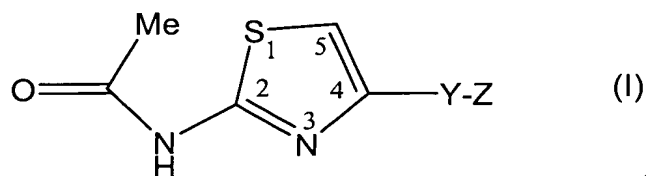
~~, as an active ingredient,~~

the compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

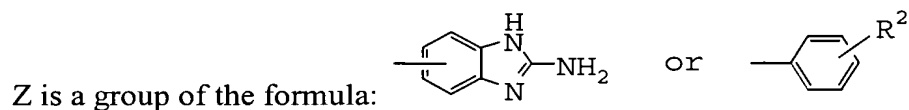
Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a compound of the formula

(I):



wherein the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position;

Y is a bond, lower alkylene, lower alkenylene or -CONH-; and



wherein R^2 is a group of the formula: -A-B-D-E

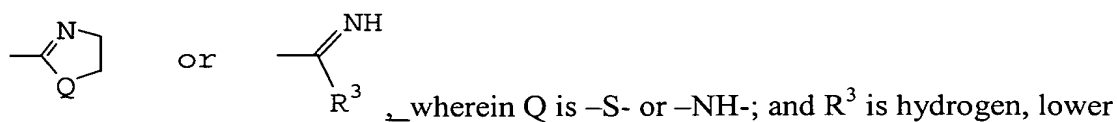
wherein

A is a bond, lower alkylene, -NH- or -SO₂-;

B is a bond, lower alkylene, -CO- or -O-;

D is a bond, lower alkylene, -NH- or -CH₂NH-; provided that B and D are not simultaneously bonds, and

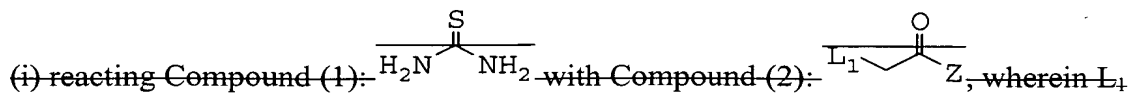
E is ~~optionally protected~~ amino, which is optionally protected, -N=CH₂,



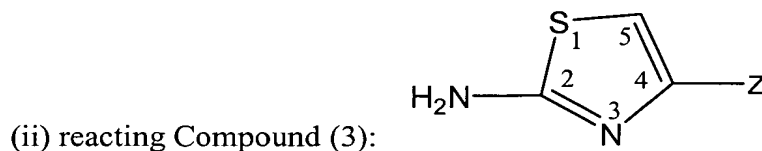
alkyl, lower alkylthio or -NH-R⁴, wherein R⁴ is hydrogen, -NH₂ or lower alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof[[,]];

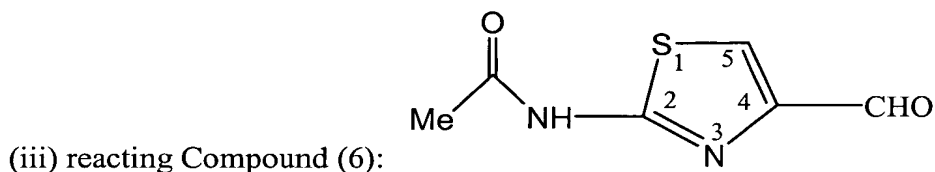
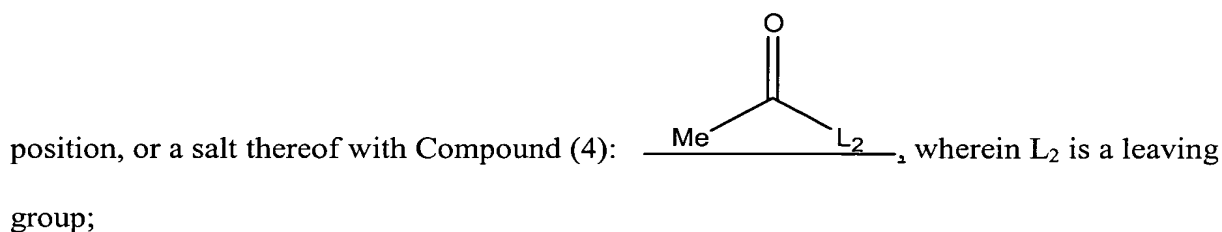
which method comprises at least one step selected from the group consisting of (i),
(ii), (iii), (iv) and [[to]] (v):



is a leaving group and Z is as defined above, or a salt thereof;

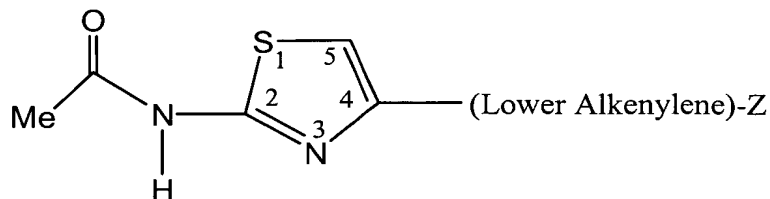


wherein Z is as defined above and the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-

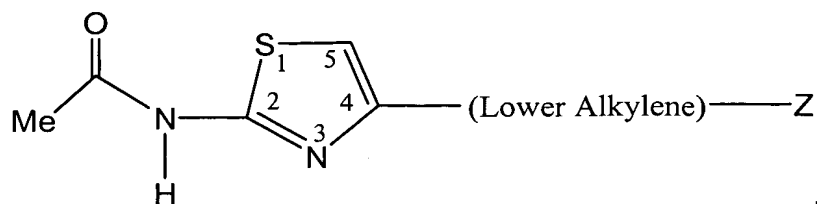


wherein the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position or a salt thereof with Compound (7): L₃-CH₂-Z, wherein L₃ is a leaving group and Z is as defined above, or a salt thereof;

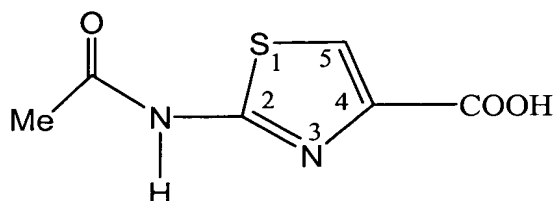
(iv) reduction of Compound (10):



wherein Z is as defined above and the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position, or a salt thereof;



wherein Z is as defined above and the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position[[,]]; or a salt thereof; and



wherein the 1,3-thiazole ring is optionally substituted at the 5-position or a reactive derivative thereof, or a salt thereof with Compound (13): $L^4\text{-NH-Z}$, wherein L^4 is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group and Z is as defined above[[,]]; or a salt thereof.

Claims 9-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method for treating macular edema comprising:

~~, which method comprises~~

administering to a subject in need thereof [[a]] the compound as claimed in of claim 1 in an amount sufficient to treat said subject for macular edema.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the compound is:

N-{4-[2-(4-{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-5-[4-(methylsulfonyl)benzyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{[hydrazino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-5-[4-(methylsulfonyl)benzyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-{[hydrazino(imino)methyl]amino}phenyl)ethyl]-1,3-thiazol-2-yl}acetamide, or

N-(4-{2-[4-(2-{[amino(imino)methyl]amino}ethyl)phenyl]ethyl}-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)acetamide,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 19-21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 17, wherein said macular edema is diabetic macular edema.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 17, wherein said macular edema is non-diabetic macular edema.

Claims 24-25 (Cancelled)